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⑮ 発明の名称 清潔で保存性の高い茹麺類の製造方法

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明 細 書

1. [発明の名称]

清潔で保存性の高い茹麺類の製造方法

2. [特許請求の範囲]

茹麺類製造工程において、茹であげられた麺線を冷却するのに使用される冷却用水に有機酸を添加し、該有機酸含有冷却水を紫外線殺菌し、更に、該冷却水を10℃以下に強制冷却しながら該冷却水を連続的に循環使用することを特徴とする清潔で保存性の高い茹麺類の製造方法。

3. [発明の詳細な説明]

本発明は、茹麺類製造工程において、茹であげられた麺線を冷却するために、連続的に殺菌された1℃～10℃の範囲の冷却水を循環使用することによって清潔で保存性の高い茹麺類を製造する方法に係る。更に詳細には、前記冷却水に有機酸を添加し、該有機酸含有冷却水を紫外線で殺菌し、更に、この冷却水を常用の手段で10℃以下に強制冷却することにより静菌(生存残菌の増殖速度を遅らせること)処理し、

これを連続的に循環使用することを特徴とする清潔で保存性の高い茹麺類の製造方法に関する。

本明細書の全体を通じて使用される“茹麺類”という用語は茹うどん、茹そば、茹ひやむぎ、茹そうめん、茹中華麺、蒸し麺等を意味する。

複数の冷却槽を循環する冷却水に流水型紫外線殺菌装置(出力:51.5w×2)を用い、紫外線を短時間(例えば、数秒間)照射することにより冷却水中の菌を99%以上殺菌することができる。更に、プレート式熱交換機を用いて冷却水の温度を10℃以下に制御することによって生残する菌の増殖速度を遅らせる。このようにして得られた清潔な冷却水を連続的に循環使用する。また、冷却水の紫外線殺菌および10℃以下の低温管理と共に、該冷却水に有機酸(例えば、リンゴ酸、クエン酸、乳酸等)を添加することにより冷却水のpHを3.0に調整する。斯くして、麺線自体に有機酸を付着させ、茹麺の保存性を更に高めることができる。

食品用殺菌剤として過酸化水素の使用が実質

上禁止され、また添加物の安全性が問われている現在、保存性の高い茹麴を製造するには製造工程を清潔にすることが必要不可欠である。

茹麴の製造過程は概ね、混捏—複合—熟成—圧延—切り出し—茹で—冷却—包装—検査の諸工程からなり立っている。一般に、茹で工程通過直後の茹麴の菌数は殆んど0であり、以後の工程で汚染されていく。このうち最大の汚染源は冷却工程である。従って、清潔な茹麴を製造するためには、冷却工程、特に冷却水を清潔にしなければならない。従来、茹麴の製造においては、茹で後に水洗冷却が行なわれているが、水洗冷却の方法がメーカにより適宜まちまちであり、また、冷却水の風量管理は殆んど行われていなかった。

最近、冷却水を強制冷却する試みも行われているが、これは殺菌目的というより、質の改良が主眼であった。本発明者らは鋭意研究の結果、茹麴の冷却用水を10℃以下に強制冷却し、この冷却用水を流水型紫外線殺菌装置を通して

殺菌し、更に、この冷却水に有機酸を添加することによって、清潔で保存性のすぐれた茹麴類を製造することに成功した。

冷却水槽は単一槽型であっても、あるいは複数個を直列させたような連続槽型であってもよい。連続槽型の場合は、各槽ごとに紫外線殺菌および強制冷却を行ない、そして、冷却用水への有機酸の添加は最後の槽だけにしてもよい。連続槽型において、各槽毎に紫外線殺菌および強制冷却することの意義は、小区画で同一条件の冷却殺菌をくりかえすことにより徹底殺菌を図ることにある。連続槽型の場合、直列させる槽の数は製造施設の規模等に応じて適宜増減させることができる。

以下、実施例をあげて本発明を更に詳細に説明する。

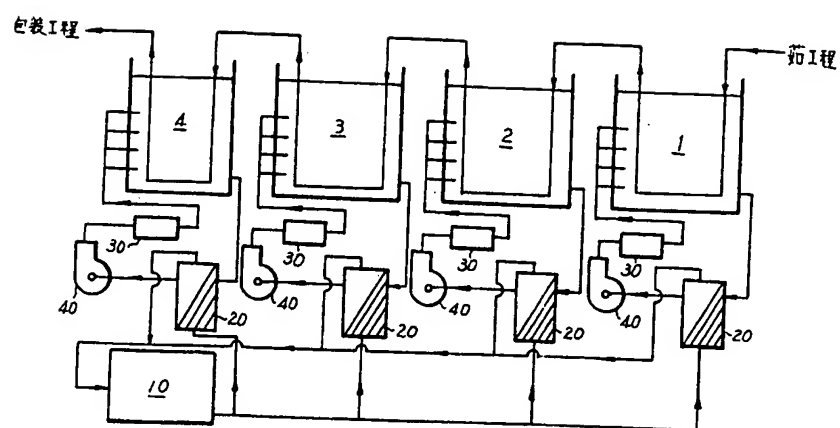
第1図は本発明の方法による冷却工程のフローシートである。

各冷却槽毎に付設されたプレート式熱交換機とチラーユニットを連結したチーリングシステム

ムによって冷却用水を10℃以下に制御する。このことによって各槽冷却水中の菌の発育を抑制させる。次に各槽に相込まれた流水型紫外線殺菌装置（出力：51.5w×2）を用いて短時間（例えば、数秒間）照射殺菌を行なう。この段階で99%以上の菌を死滅させることができる。そして、ポンプ等により元の冷却槽に循環させる。流量を3.0 m³/hr とすると第1冷却槽から第3冷却槽までは12.4分間で一回転、第4冷却槽は8.4分間に1回転の割合で循環する。これを繰り返すことにより、冷却用水の菌数は常に10個/ml以下にすることができる。従って、包装直後の茹麴の菌数も従来の製造法で製造したものより大幅に減少させることができる。第4冷却槽については更に有機酸（リンゴ酸、クエン酸、乳酸等）を添加してpHを3.0に調整し、冷却水を殺菌する。それと共に茹麴に有機酸を吸着させることによって保存性を高めることができる。

容量620ℓの第1～第3冷却槽（流量

3.0 m³/hr）および容量420ℓの第4冷却槽（流量3.0 m³/hr）を直列に結び、第4冷却槽中の冷却用水にはリンゴ酸を添加してpHを3.0に調整して本発明の方法を実施した場合の冷却用水中の菌数の変化を下記の表に示す。



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MANUFACTURING METHOD OF CLEAN AND HIGHLY PRESERVABLE BOILED
NOODLES

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[There are no amendments to this patent.]

Claim

A manufacturing method of clean and highly preservable boiled noodles characterized by a manufacturing process of boiled noodles, in which an organic acid is added to the cooling water that is used for cooling of noodles that are boiled, said cooling water containing organic

acid is sterilized by ultraviolet light, and furthermore said cooling water is forcibly cooled to below 10°C and said cooling water is continuously circulated.

Detailed explanation of the invention

This invention concerns a manufacturing method of clean and highly preservable boiled noodles by using cooling water, which is continuously sterilized within a range of 1-10°C, and circulated for cooling noodles that are boiled in a manufacturing process of boiled noodles. In more detail, it concerns a manufacturing method of clean and highly preservable boiled noodles characterized by an organic acid being added to the aforementioned cooling water, said cooling water containing organic acid being sterilized by ultraviolet light, and furthermore this cooling water being forcibly cooled to below 10°C by a generally used measure and sterilized (the propagation speed of the remaining surviving bacteria is slowed), and this being continuously circulated.

The term "boiled noodles" used throughout the entire specification refers to boiled udon, boiled soba, boiled hiyamugi, boiled somen, boiled Chinese noodles, and steamed noodles, etc.

Over 99% of the bacteria in cooling water can be sterilized by using a running water type ultraviolet sterilization system (output: 51.5 W x 2) for the cooling water which circulates through several cooling tanks and by irradiating the ultraviolet light over a short period of time (several seconds, for example). Furthermore, the temperature of the cooling water is controlled below 10°C by using a plate type heat exchanger, and the propagation speed of the bacteria that remain alive is slowed. The clean cooling water, which is obtained in this manner, is continuously circulated. In addition to the ultraviolet sterilization and the low-temperature management below 10°C of the cooling water, an organic acid (such as malic acid, citric acid, and lactic acid, for example) is added to said cooling water, and the pH of the cooling water is adjusted to 3.0. In this way, organic acid is adhered to the noodle itself, and the preservation of boiled noodles can be further increased.

At present when the use of hydrogen peroxide as a food sterilizer is practically prohibited, and the safety of additives is being questioned, a clean manufacturing process is a must for manufacturing boiled noodles with high preservation characteristics.

The manufacturing process of boiled noodles is roughly comprised of several processes including mixing, combining, ripening, rolling, cutting, boiling, cooling, wrapping, and inspecting. The number of bacteria in boiled noodles immediately after the boiling process is generally close to 0, but they become contaminated in the processes afterwards. The biggest contaminating source is the cooling process. Accordingly, the cooling water particularly must be kept clean in the cooling process for manufacturing clean boiled noodles. In conventional manufacture of boiled noodles, a water-wash cooling is performed after boiling; the water-wash

cooling method varies for each maker, and the temperature of the cooling water is almost never controlled.

In recent years, attempts have been made to forcibly cool the cooling water, although the main objective of this was for improving the quality of the noodles rather than sterilization. As a result of diligent research by the inventors of this invention, clean boiled noodles with excellent preservation characteristics were successfully manufactured by forcibly cooling the cooling water for boiled noodles to below 10°C and sterilizing this cooling water through a running water type ultraviolet sterilization system, and furthermore, by adding an organic acid to this cooling water.

The cooling water tank may be a single tank type or a succession tank form, in which several tanks are arranged in a series. When it is a series tank type, each tank is sterilized by ultraviolet light and forcibly cooled, and the addition of organic acid to the cooling water may be in the last tank only. The significance of obtaining the ultraviolet sterilization and forcible cooling for each tank is the attainment of thorough sterilization through repeated cooling sterilizations under the same conditions in small sections. In a series tank type, the number of tanks that are arranged in the series can be properly increased or decreased according to the scale of the manufacturing facility, etc.

This invention will be explained in more detail in an application example below.

Figure 1 is a flow sheet of the cooling process by the method in this invention.

The cooling water is controlled to below 10°C by a chilling system connecting a plate type heat exchange with a chilling unit, which is attached to each cooling tank. The growth of the bacteria in the cooling water in each tank is inhibited through this. Next, an irradiation sterilization is obtained in a short period of time (several seconds, for example) by using a running water type ultraviolet sterilization system (output: 51.5 W x 2) integrated with each tank. Over 99% of the bacteria can be killed in this stage. Then, the water is circulated back to the original cooling tank by a pump, for example. When the flow rate is 3.0 m³/hr, one turnover for each of the first cooling tank through the third cooling tank is 12.4 minutes. The fourth cooling tank circulates at the rate of 1 turnover in 8.4 minutes. Through repeating this, the number of bacteria in the cooling water can be constantly maintained to below 10²/mL. Accordingly, the number of bacteria in [the previously] boiled water immediately after wrapping [of the product] can also be dramatically decreased as compared to the number from a conventional manufacturing method. With the fourth cooling tank, an organic acid (malic acid, citric acid, and lactic acid, for example) is further added, the pH is adjusted to 3.0, and the cooling water is sterilized. The preservation of the boiled noodles can be increased through adsorption of the organic acid.

The table below shows the change in the number of bacteria in the cooling water when the method in this invention is implemented by connecting the first-third cooling tanks with a volume of 620 L (flow rate of 3.0 m³/hr) and the fourth cooling tank with a volume of 420 L (flow rate of 3.0 m³/hr) in series, adding malic acid into the cooling water in the fourth cooling tank, and adjusting the pH to 3.0.

① 流水型紫外線殺菌装置：サニマック精密（株）SAL-200
紫外線ランプ：150W×2本 紫外線の出力51.5W×2

② 流量 ③ 7.0 t/時間

検体	一般生菌数	④				⑥ 0 units/mL	⑦ 10 ¹ /mL	⑧ 10 ² /mL	⑨ 10 ³ /mL	⑩ 10 ⁴ /mL	⑪ 検体数	
		④	⑤	⑥	⑦							
⑪ 第4冷却槽水（リンゴ酸でpH3.0に調整）	紫外線殺菌直前冷却水 ⑬			10 ¹	22 ¹	55 ¹	11 ¹				200	
	直接冷却水 ⑭	9 ¹	8 ¹								200	温度 ⑫
	5分後冷却槽水 ⑮	12 ¹	22 ¹	52 ¹	14 ¹					50	4~6℃	
	10分後冷却槽水 ⑯	18 ¹	56 ¹	24 ¹	2 ¹					50		
	30分後冷却槽水 ⑰	48 ¹	44 ¹	8 ¹						50		
	1時間後冷却槽水 ⑱	55 ¹	44 ¹							50	透過率 ⑲	
											80%	⑳
⑫ 第1~第3冷却槽水	紫外線殺菌直前冷却水 ⑬			8 ¹	19 ¹	57 ¹	14 ¹				600	温度 ㉑
	直接冷却水 ⑭	72 ¹	25 ¹	2 ¹							600	4~10℃
	5分後冷却槽水 ⑮	4 ¹	24 ¹	35 ¹	34 ¹	2 ¹				150		
	10分後冷却槽水 ⑯	14 ¹	32 ¹	41 ¹	12 ¹					150		
	30分後冷却槽水 ⑰	24 ¹	54 ¹	20 ¹						150		
	1時間後冷却槽水 ⑱	50 ¹	39 ¹	10 ¹						100	98~100%	

検体	一般生菌数	④				⑥ 10 ¹ /mL	⑦ 10 ² /mL	⑧ 10 ³ /mL	⑨ 10 ⁴ /mL	⑪ 検体数	
		④	⑤	⑥	⑦						
⑬ 冷却水を紫外線殺菌しない場合	⑬			29 ¹	62 ¹	7 ¹				100	初値の温度 ㉒
	⑭	19 ¹	58 ¹	23 ¹						100	5~8℃
	⑮	40 ¹	55 ¹	5 ¹						50	

- Keys: 1 Running water type ultraviolet sterilization system: SAL-200 by Sanimac Precise Instruments (K.K.)
 Ultraviolet lamp: 150 W x 2
 Output of ultraviolet light: 51.5 W x 2
- 2 Flow rate
 3 7.0 t[turnover]/h
 4 Test sample/General number of bacteria
 5 0 units/mL
 6 Below 10¹ mL
 7 At the level of 10¹/mL

- 8 At the level of 10^2 /mL
- 9 At the level of 10^3 /mL
- 10 The number of test samples
- 11 Water in the fourth cooling tank (pH is adjusted to 3.0 by malic acid)
- 12 Water in the first to third cooling tanks
- 13 Cooling water immediately before ultraviolet sterilization
- 14 Cooling water immediately after ultraviolet sterilization
- 15 Water in the cooling tank 5 minutes after the ultraviolet sterilization
- 16 Water in the cooling tank 10 minutes after the ultraviolet sterilization
- 17 Water in the cooling tank 30 minutes after the ultraviolet sterilization
- 18 Water in the cooling tank 1 hour after the ultraviolet sterilization
- 19 Boiled noodles
- 20 When the cooling water is not sterilized by ultraviolet light
- 21 30 minutes after the cooling water is sterilized by ultraviolet light
- 22 1 hour after the cooling water is sterilized by ultraviolet light
- 23 Temperature
- 24 Transmission rate
- 25 The temperature of the boiled noodles

When using cooling water below 10°C , boiled noodles with relatively high preservation characteristics were obtained through a combined use of ultraviolet sterilization and treatment with an organic acid.

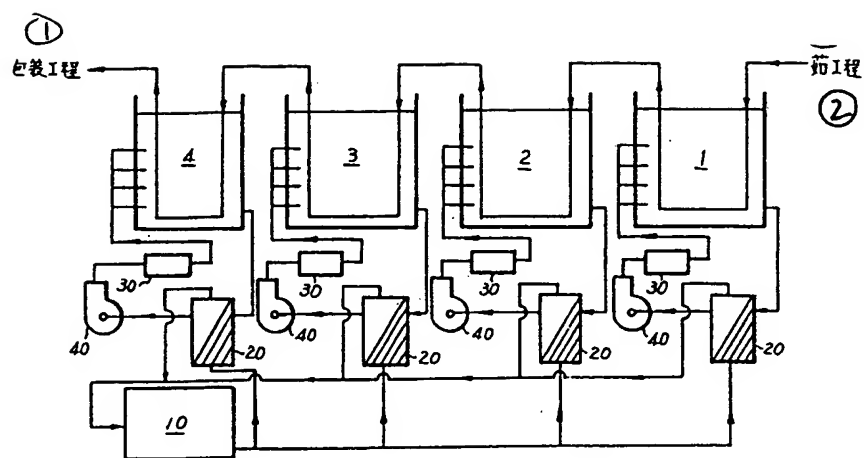
The water in the cooling tank can be circulated through this invention, therefore, a significant amount of water is saved. About 80 percent of the water in an 8 hour-operation was saved. Exchange of water in the tanks once during the lunch break sufficiently took care of the problem of the accumulation of a suspension in the cooling water through the elution of starch that is generated over time (so-called slime).

Because the temperature of the cooling water is controlled below 10°C by using a plate type heat exchanger, the boiled noodles are rapidly cooled after boiling, which improves the texture of the boiled noodles, and boiled noodles of excellent noodle quality were manufactured.

Brief description of the figure

Figure 1 is a flow sheet for implementation of the cooling process by the method in this invention.

1...First cooling tank, 2...second cooling tank, 3...third cooling tank, 4...fourth cooling tank, 10...chilling unit, 20...plate type heat exchanger, 30...running water type ultraviolet sterilization system, 40...pump.



Keys: 1 Wrapping process
 2 Boiling process

